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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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In 34h Housekeepers' Chat

Wednesday, July 17, 1929.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "Cotton Fabrics for Comfort and Style."

Bulletins available: Fitting Dresses and Blouses, Dresses for Little Girls, Rompers for Children, and Sun Suits for Children.

--ooOoo--

Have you ever known a more popular season for cotton dresses? I have seen more good-looking cotton sports dresses this summer than ever before.

There's a good reason. Cotton is favored for sports wear because it stands frequent tubbing. Piques, broadcloths, suitings, and other closely woven, substantial, fabrics are made up in sleeveless tennis or boating dresses, for "active sports wear." For those who look on, at tennis meet or gulf tournament, there are dressy coats and ensembles, in plain colors or gay prints, or combinations of both. Cretonnes and cotton eponges are used for "water sports wear" -- beach pajamas and coats.

Speaking of pajamas -- both decorative lounging pajamas, and practical sleeping pajamas, are made of cotton fabrics -- cotton broadcloth, gingham, soft cambric and muslins, often printed in delightful geometric and flowered patterns.

Informal evening dresses, and formal afternoon frocks are made of plain and flowered organdy and lawn, dimity, voile, dotted swiss, and other dainty materials. For tailored cotton street or business dresses, prints and ginghams are always good.

The choice for children's dresses is unlimited, ranging from the sheer muslins, printed zephyrs, ginghams, and soft sateens, to the stoutest kindergarten cloth.

Our friend the Menu Specialist made an interesting trip the other day. She went to New York City, to act as one of five judges in the recent National Dressmaking Contest. The largest manufacturers of cotton prints in the world were responsible for this national contest. They offered a total of \$3,500 in cash prizes for dresses made of their cotton fabrics. The dresses were submitted to hundreds of department stores, in small towns and in cities, and the best of these dresses were sent on to New York.

The Menu Specialist and the four other judges spent a whole day, scoring dresses from all over the country.



R-H.C. 7/17

Would you like to hear about the dress which won first prize of \$500? It was a thin cotton fabric, dark blue dots on a white background. The dress was a one-piece model, sleeveless, made with a little scarf collar. The scarf collar had an edge of dark blue handkerchief linen, hand-hemstitched on. The belt, and the band on the bottom of the skirt, were also of the handkerchief linen.

In judging the dresses, the five clothing experts used the score card of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This score card is divided into four main divisions: 1, Material used, including trimmings; 2, Design and color; 3, Workmanship; and 4, General appearance.

Under Materials Used, we have suitability to design and purpose of dress, durability of materials, and laundering and cleaning qualities. These count 30 points. Under Design and Color, are considered suitability to occasion, individuality, and beauty of line and color. These also count 30 points. Workmanship includes choice and neatness of seams, hems, finishes, and so forth and perfection of stitching -- also 30 points. General appearance includes cleanliness and pressing, 10 points. Three 30's and a 10 -- making a total of 100 points.

The Menu Specialist says that all the prize-winning dresses had easy laundering features -- no buckles, ribbons, or other decorations, except those which might be detached, or washed.

I asked her particularly about the children's dresses. She says there were many pretty ones -- and also a good many over-decorated ones. Sometimes we forget that simplicity should always be our guide, in making children's dresses.

Before we leave the subject of dressmaking, I want to call your attention to the dressmaking bulletin -- there are four, one for grown-ups, called "Fitting Dresses and Blouses," and three for the growing-ups; Dresses for Little Girls," "Rompers for Children," and "Sun Suits for Children." All of these are free.

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And this concludes our talk on "Cotton Fabrics."

Next on our program is the menu. WE're having fish today - Broiled Fish; Baked Cucumbers; Baked New Potatoes; and Huckleberry or Blueberry Shortcake.

First I'll give you directions for cooking the fish.

To broil fish, place it skin side down on a greased pan, or baking sheet, if you are going to cook it under a gas flame. If you are going to broil it over hot coals, place it in a greased broiler. Fish should always be broiled at medium temperature for a comparatively short time, so it won't be tough and dry. In using a gas flame, turn it fairly low, and place the fish far enough from the flame so that it will cook rather





slowly. A four pound fish will require from 25 to 40 minutes, depending on how thick it is. Just before it is done, place it closer to the flame, to give a golden brown. Slip the broiled fish gently onto a hot platter, add a little melted butter, and serve with it some slices or sections of lemon.

The recipe for Baked Cucumbers you'll find on page 17, in the Radio Cookbook. And by the way, if you do not have a copy of the famous Radio Cookbook, I'd advise you to send for one right away. It contains 300 recipes, and 70 menus.

Well, pardon me for digressing -- we were on the subject of Baked Cucumbers. Try them once, and you'll wonder how you ever got along without this recipe.

The Huckleberry or Blueberry Shortcake is made just like any other shortcake, except that the berries are sweetened and cooked a little before they are combined with the biscuits.

The menu, again: Broiled Fish, Baked Cucumbers; Baked New Potatoes; and Huckleberry or Blueberry Shortcake.

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